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INDUSTRIAL NEWS SURVEY

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THE situation in Europe continues to exercise a restraining influence on business in this country. The occupation of the Ruhr by the French has created a new problem in Central Europe, the outcome of which is still uncertain, and the Lausanne Conference threatens daily to break up without attaining its objectives. In this country, however, Congress has taken a definite step toward stabilizing the international situation when, sinking party differences, the House of Representatives passed the proposals recommended by the United States Debt Commission for the funding of the debt of Great Britain to the United States.

The immigration problem has again occupied a good share of the attention of Congress. During the past week a proposed permanent immigration act has been reported by the House Immigration Committee, providing for a reduction in the percentage of aliens admissible from European countries and the exclusion of Japanese immigrants. The important feature of the bill is, however, the further general restriction of immigration. At present the admission quotas are placed at 3% of the number of foreign born of any nationality resident in the United States, based on the census of 1910, but the new bill would reduce the quotas to 2%, based on the census of 1890. It is estimated that this method of computation would reduce the annual number of immigrants from the present permitted number of 358,023 to 168,837. A bill just passed by the Senate provides for the entry of 25,000 Armenian orphans whom American relief workers have brought out of Turkey. Adult Armenian refugees, numbering probably from 5,000 to 6,000, having relatives or friends in the United States, would also be admitted in excess of the present quota.

An increasing demand for steel was shown by the report of the United States Steel Corporation that its unfilled orders on January 31, 1923, totaled 6,910,776 tons. This was an increase of 165,073 tons over the previous month and the highest total for twenty-three months. In the building industry there is a marked trend toward higher prices for all kinds of building materials. Strengthening prices are also noticeable in other industries.

Governmental

President Harding appeared before joint session of Congress on February 7, 1923, and requested early action in present session on proposal for funding of British debt and also on pending Ship Subsidy bill. The President in his message stated that:

1. Congress was asked to assemble in joint session in order that he might submit report of World War Foreign Debt Commission, covering its accepted proposal for funding of debt due U. S. from Government of Great Britain.

2. W. W. F. D. Commission, received mission appointed by British Government to present facts relating to position of British Government at Washington, D. C. Settlement was agreed upon which Commission unanimously recommended for submission to Congress.

3. Commenting on settlement, he stated: "Here is the first clearing of the war-clouded skies in a debt-burdened world, and the sincere commitment of one great nation to validate its financial pledges and discharge its obligations in the highest sense of financial honor."

4. I bring settlement "with the earnest recommendation that it be given, so far as legislation procedure will admit, a cordial and prompt approval."

5. Settlement "is a covenant of peace and recuperation, of respect and cooperation. It is a new element of financial and economic stabilization. . . . It is of such outstanding importance to us and to the world that I should be remiss if I did not invite your sanction even amid crowded calendars and pending problems of great importance. And I hope you will be glad to approve."

On Ship Subsidy bill, the President said that

"the executive branch of the Government is charged with the operation of Government owned shipping, which is losing the Federal treasury \$50,000,000 a year. . . . In inviting your support, I frankly urged that if Congress would not approve it should submit some alternative remedy. . . . I plead for a decision. If there is a favorable majority, the bill should be enacted. If a majority is opposed, defeat will be decisive. Then, if Congress fails in providing the requested alternative measure, the executive branch of the Government may proceed as best it can to end the losses in liquidation and humiliation."

Following delivery of President's address bills were introduced in Senate and House authorizing acceptance of terms on Great Britain's debt, as agreed to by British and American Commissions. Unless unforeseen obstacles develop, press reports state, Senators in charge of British Debt Refunding bill, which has already passed House by large majority and has been re-

ported to Senate, hope to put measure through Senate and obtain conference action during coming week.

Bill, providing that during period ending June 30, 1924, there shall be admitted to U. S. Armenian orphans up to maximum of 25,000, upon guarantee from families and institutions that they shall be cared for, was passed by Senate. Adult Armenian refugees having relatives or friends in U. S. would also be admitted in disregard of immigration quota during that period. Senator Sterling, South Dakota, in charge of bill is reported to have said that probably between 5,000 and 6,000 such adults would come to U. S.

The number of immigrants eligible to admission to the United States under the existing restriction act would be reduced more than half under a section of a new immigration bill approved by House Immigration Committee. Admissions under proposed act would be limited to 2% of number of foreign born individuals of any nationality resident in United States as determined by census of 1890. Present restriction is 3%, as determined by census of 1910. Members of Committee estimate that under new restriction clause total of immigrants entering the United States in any one year would not exceed 168,837. Admissions under existing law total 358,023 yearly. One provision of proposed law, committee members said, probably would exclude every class of alien ineligible to American citizenship, except ministers, teach-

ers, scientists and tourists of those nationalities. This section, it is stated, is understood to be designed to keep out Japanese immigrants.

Legislation

The Kansas City (Kansas) Star reports that bill introduced in Kansas legislature by Republican member aims at abolishing Kansas Industrial Court and substituting Fact-Finding Commissioner. Bill proposes repeal of industrial court law in its entirety, and such amendatory legislation as has appeared since special session of 1920. It also proposes abandonment of women's welfare legislation, minimum wage, factory inspection, maximum hours and other measures providing for improvement of conditions of women in industrial pursuits. In place of Industrial Court there would be created office of Industrial Commissioner and further provision is made for appointment by Governor of from two to six persons to sit with the Industrial Commissioner in the hearing of any dispute over wages, etc., and this commission is to make a report of its findings to the Governor, the employees and employers and file a copy with clerk of district court where dispute arose. No effort is made in measure to fix any penalties or enforce the order of the Commissioner.

Workmen's Compensation

Employee claimed that due to lifting heavy reel of wire and exposure in course of employment he sustained inflammatory neuritis. It appears that he told his employer that he was sick and was going away

for a short time, but said nothing further to either his employer or his fellow employees. In this case Industrial Commission of Utah held that in view of the evidence, it cannot be found that employee's disability is result of accident arising out of employment, but that it was simply due to an attack of neuralgic-rheumatism. Compensation was, therefore, denied.

Labor Supply

U. S. Department of Labor reports that in January there was an increased demand for labor in virtually every State of the Union. Manufacturing industries almost without exception showed shortages of both skilled and common labor. Many mining districts made similar reports, although here and there production was held back by car shortage. Lumber industries also reported shortages of labor both in woods and mill. Only agricultural, food and some of seasonal industries experienced surpluses and in none of these was condition described as serious. Building industry was shown to be active throughout country, except in few northern sections where operations were retarded by weather. In New England district textile mills were running overtime and shortage of skilled labor was noted.

Industrial Relations

Strike of about 30,000 workers in dress and waist industry of New York City, members of Dress and Waist Makers' Union, a branch of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, took place on Feb.

7, 1923, when contractors refused to accept week work clause in new contract which was being negotiated to take place of contract which expired on Feb. 1, 1923. Contractors, who manufacture dresses, are organized as Association of Dress Manufacturers, Inc. They own machines and employ from 12,000 to 15,000 workers. Their output is bought by jobbers, organized as Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association, who do not maintain manufacturing plants but have showrooms and sales forces. As compromise, jobbers attempted to have contractors accept 40-hour week in place of 44-hour week proposed by union, but were unsuccessful. Contractors in turn offered 10% wage increase as a compromise but this was unacceptable to union. U. S. Bureau of Conciliation has assigned two Commissioners to act as mediators and N. Y. State Industrial Commissioner is also trying to affect a settlement. Latest press reports state that union has begun making separate agreements, calling for week work in place of piece work effective for two years, with group of large independent jobbers who are not members of Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association. It is expected that this move will split both associations of organized jobbers and contractors and force them to accept same terms.

According to resolution adopted by Boston (Mass.) unions affiliated with International Ladies' Garment Workers, strike will be called in Boston waist and dressmaking industry during the next few days. It is estimated that approximately

3,000 workers will be affected. Demands of unions include increased wages and abandonment of "sweat shop" conditions.

Press reports state that approximately 1,000 members of Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union, who went on strike last week in Philadelphia, Pa., in order to enforce union working conditions in this city, have returned to work, as eight of largest jobbing houses in trade had made individual agreements accepting unions' demands. About 2,000 employees are still on strike.

In accordance with agreement made at annual convention in New York City last December, representatives of United Garment Manufacturers' Association of America met in Chicago, Ill., on Feb. 7, 1923, to discuss wages and hours and other matters pertinent to the industry. No definite action, however, was taken beyond decision to hold another meeting latter part of March, 1923. Above group, it is stated, practically controls labor and manufacture of overalls, men's working shirts and clothes of all kinds, with exception of gloves.

General strike of about 15,000 members of United Laundry Workers of America was called on Feb. 10, 1923. About 115 plants in wet wash industry are affected. Union demands wage increase of 15%, better working conditions and recognition of union, it is stated.

Rochester, N. Y., report of *Daily News Record* (N. Y. City) states that large number of shoe workers in that city, members of United Shoe Workers of America, who have been on strike since May 1, 1922,

are returning to work with permission of their officials, indicating that long strike has been a failure.

The Globe (N. Y. City) reports that shoe factories in Lynn, Mass., were operated on Saturday, Feb. 10, 1923, as result of Supreme Court's decree confirming working agreement established by an arbitration committee several months ago, providing for Saturday morning work. This was first Saturday work in several years as 5-day week was formerly in effect.

Press reports state that preservation of existing wage rates and working rules for train, yard and engine service employees on all railways of U. S. for another year was assured by decisions of U. S. Railroad Labor Board. Board decided to postpone further action in case of 17 railways and nine subsidiary lines, which sought reductions of wages, until some date subsequent to Oct. 1, 1923, and also on request by firemen's organization to establish rule to compel railroads to employ two firemen on larger engines. In declining to take action at this time Board stated it was of opinion that it would be disturbing factor in present railroad situation to establish rates and conditions on few roads at variance with those prevailing on 95% of railway mileage of country.

President of Northern Pacific Railway Co. has announced that as result of permission given to local unions by strike leaders, shopmen's strike has been officially terminated at all important points, including Brainard, Minn., Livingston and

Missoula, Mont., and South Tacoma, Wash., and that Company is receiving numerous applications for work. Northern Pacific is first system in U. S., it is stated, in which shopmen's strike has been declared off without any concession being granted to strikers. It is thought that this action on part of shopmen will have an important psychological effect on the strikers on other railroads.

Trade Unionism

Bill in equity was filed in Suffolk Superior Court of Mass. in behalf of Secretary of United Shoe Workers against President of Amalgamated Shoe Workers of America, enjoining President and other officials of A. S. W. of A. from coercing any of unions of U. S. W. of Lynn, Mass., to secede, or to receive any funds of these unions, and from interfering with agreement between U. S. W. and Lynn (Mass.) Shoe Manufacturers' Association. Hearing will be held on Feb. 9, 1923. In meantime temporary injunction has been obtained. Action was caused by members of the U. S. W., at instigation of radical element, voting to affiliate with A. S. W. of A.

Wages and Hours

U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that farm wages declined during period from October 1 to December 31, 1922. Decreases ranged from 3.1% to 6.4% for various parts of U. S. Day laborers in U. S. as a whole were averaging \$1.98 per day without and \$1.47 with board, while by month average wage was \$40.30 without and \$27.81 with board.

Minimum Wage Commission of Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries has established minimum wage rates for brush factories of \$13.92 weekly for experienced employees, and special rates of \$12 and \$9.60 for learners and apprentices, effective March 1, 1923. This represents hourly rates of 29, 25 and 20 cents respectively. Present minimum rates are, according to decree of Aug. 15, 1914, 15.5 and 10 cents per hour, according to experience.

Chicago (Ill.) Journal of Commerce reports that wage figures taken from January payrolls in two large lumber camps of Wisconsin and upper Michigan show that timber workers are earning from \$85 to \$160 per month. Sawyers averaged \$4.25, skidders and swamper \$4.35 and loaders on cars \$5.25 per day, from which was deducted board at rate of 75 cents per day. Records show that last year wages ranged from \$26 to \$35 per month for same work.

Agreement entered into between New Orleans (La.) Metal Trades Association and four Union Crafts effective from December 27, 1922 to August 31, 1924, provides for wage scale of 75 cents per hour for mechanics, and 45 cents for helpers, or wages to continue as in effect at present time, and which wage rate will remain in effect until August 31, 1923. Working hours shall be from 8.00 a.m. to 12.00 and from 1.00 to 5.00 p.m., and when required to work during noon hour or any fractional part thereof men shall be paid for full hour at the double time rate. Saturday afternoon shall be considered overtime

and Sundays and eight holidays shall be paid for at the double time rate. Working week calls for 8-hour day on five days and four on Saturday, 44 hours in all.

The Typographical Journal (Indianapolis, Ind.) reports that new contracts and wage scales were agreed upon in printing industry in following cities:

Kewanee, Ill.: Book and Job—Handmen, operators, day, \$30; night, \$32. Contract is for period of two years, from January 1, 1923, to December 31, 1924. Increase, \$5; January 1, 1924 additional increase of \$1.

Brantford, Ont.: Book and Job—Handmen, operators, day, \$31.68; night, \$33.68; 44-hour day, 42-hour nights. Contract covers period of three years from September 30, 1922, to September 30, 1925. Increase, \$1.43.

Ottawa, Ont.: Scale, \$41 day; night, \$43.50; 46½-hour day, night, 43½. Old contract, \$27.50 and \$29.50, with 48-hour day and 45-hour night. New contract expires September 30, 1923.

Niagara Falls, N. Y.: Newspaper—Handmen, operators, day, \$40; night, \$43; 48-hour. Contract covers period of one year from September 6, 1922, to September 6, 1923. Wage scale to maintain differential of \$2 lower than Buffalo. Increase, \$1.

Schenectady, N. Y.: Newspaper—Handmen, operators, day, \$43; night, \$46.50; 48-hour. The contract covers a period of two years from November 1, 1922, to October 31, 1924. Increase, \$3.

Troy, N. Y.: New contract, effective December 1, 1922, to April 30, 1924, calling for advance of \$3 per week for both day and night men, making new scale \$40 per week for day work, and \$43 per week for night work.

Cost of Living

U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that livestock producers of United States marketed more meat animals and at materially higher prices in 1922 than in 1921. Combined receipts of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep and lambs at public stockyards in 1922 totaled 89,649,002 head, compared with 85,055,815 in 1921 and 87,855,454 in 1920, an increase of 4,593,187 head, or 5.1%, over 1921 and 1,793,548 head, or 2%, over 1920. Increase over 1921 was due to exceptionally large receipts of cattle, calves and hogs,

marketing of sheep and lambs having been lightest since 1917. Owing to small supply lambs led in upward movement of prices, average being \$3.54 higher per 100 lbs. than in 1921. Ewes advanced \$1.69, hogs 71 cents, and good and medium beef steers 26 cents, all per 100 lbs. Compared with 1920, prices were substantially lower, hogs being \$4.69, cattle \$4.57, ewes \$2.17 and lambs \$1.92, all per 100 lbs., under 1920 level.

Trade and Commerce

According to statistics, compiled by the *Journal of Commerce* (New York City) with cooperation of U. S. Department of Commerce, total foreign trade of leading 19 countries of world reached an approximate value of \$32,769,012,000 in 1922, as compared with \$30,679,911,000 in 1921 and \$30,613,547,000 in 1913. As but few countries register weight of goods imported and exported it is not possible to make general comparison of physical volume of pre-war and post-war trade. Studies of price indexes of various countries, however, would indicate, it is stated, that volume is far below pre-war. Nevertheless, statistics clearly indicate, according to belief of government experts, that drop from post-war boom has been checked and that international commerce has definitely begun to rise. Following compilation shows aggregate foreign trade of each of nineteen principal countries, including both exports and imports, for calendar years. Trade in merchandise only is shown, though small amounts of bullion are included in statistics

of one or two countries. In few instances the last month or two was estimated. Dollar value was arrived at by taking average monetary foreign exchange value of each country.

	—1000 dollars—		
	1922	1921	1913
United States.....	7,015,576	6,994,179	4,276,614
Canada.....	1,352,461	1,447,362	1,120,423
Brazil.....	469,551	445,862	645,383
Uruguay.....	90,483	113,253	122,915
Belgium.....	1,147,121	1,280,079	1,596,340
Denmark.....	567,587	555,176	422,540
Finland.....	173,950	150,522	173,745
France.....	3,516,156	3,362,503	2,953,199
Germany.....	2,390,520	1,920,976	4,969,327
Netherlands.....	1,249,391	1,214,596	2,801,220
Sweden.....	624,085	532,728	445,921
Switzerland.....	660,991	695,985	623,546
United Kingdom.....	8,096,424	7,301,399	6,830,401
British India.....	1,667,125	1,320,342	1,381,581
Japan.....	1,685,188	1,383,280	678,903
Australia.....	1,046,371	939,892	740,928
New Zealand.....	345,099	336,198	208,942
Egypt.....	361,433	386,549	296,171
Union of So. Africa	309,490	299,030	328,448
Total.....	32,769,012	30,679,911	30,613,547

According to *Bradstreets*, total number of business failures in January, 1923, was 2,165, with liabilities of \$53,434,003 and assets of \$28,757,193. This total of failures shows an increase of 16.2% over December, 1922, but is 20.4%, or one-fifth, smaller than total of 2,722 failures in January, 1922. It is also 8.8% below total recorded in January, 1915. As regards liabilities, while aggregate is 11.7% larger than in December, it is only about half the total recorded in January, 1922, and 18% less than total in January, 1921.

Transportation

Interstate Commerce Commission has granted application of Southern Pacific Company to retain its present control of Central Pacific Railroad, under lease and stock ownership and terms of traffic agreements reached between Southern Pacific and Union Pacific and between Western Pacific and Southern

Pacific allowing reciprocal rights for maintenance of traffic service over Central Pacific lines. Although U. S. Supreme Court in 1922, after 11 years of litigation, held that existing merger of Southern and Central Pacific was combination in restraint of competition and ordered them separated, Commission ruled that broad powers given it under Transportation Act of 1920, permitting general consolidation of railroads under Government supervision, would allow issuance of order permitting present consolidation to continue. Opinion pointed out, however, that conclusions of Commission would be subject to review by the courts before they could become effective.

According to manager of Trunk Line Association on Ellis Island, N. Y., sales of railroad tickets show that more immigrants are now going west in proportion to arrivals than at any time in annals of American immigration. For calendar year 1922, 34,000 tickets, or 37% of sales, were sold to immigrants going to Chicago, St. Louis and points further west. To points east of Buffalo and Pittsburgh, 36,000 tickets, or 40%; to middle territory (east of Chicago and St. Louis, but west of Buffalo and Pittsburgh) 19,000, or 20%; and to Southern States only 1,000 or about 1%, were sold.

Foreign

The Manchester (England) *Guardian Commercial* reports that at recent meeting of Wages and Conditions Council for the Building Industry consideration was given

to employers' application for extension of existing work week and introduction of payment by result. Proposals advanced were:

1. Immediate reduction of 20% on existing rates both for hour and piece work.
2. Extension of present working week.
3. Introduction, by degrees, of payment by results on a bonus system.

Employers indicated that strongest possible pressure was being brought on them to reduce building costs. It is understood that question of introduction of payment by results raised during negotiations was eventually dropped. Approximately 500,000 building trade workers throughout country are involved.

According to International Labour Office (Geneva, Switzerland), new workers' union was formed at Johannesburg, South Africa, called "The South African Workers Union." Object of new organization, which is non-political in character, is to improve working conditions and protect interests of members with due regard to just rights of employer and employee; to obtain and maintain reasonable hours of employment, rates of wages and other conditions of employment; to settle industrial disputes, and to regulate relations between employer and employee; to ensure complete organization of all white workers of the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia; and to uphold white standard in South Africa.

U. S. Department of Commerce reports that survey of 84 textile concerns of Czecho-Slovakia disclosed that 22% of textile employees were working 48 hours per week, 59% averaged 37 hours weekly, and 19% were unemployed.